

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed November 1, 2005, claims 57-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Meyers (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,183); claims 57, 60-63, 65-67, 70 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,509,842; hereinafter “Taniguchi”); and claims 68, 69 and 72-77 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyers or Taniguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

As an initial matter, Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the candid remarks provided in the Office Action regarding the scope of search required by the claims. In keeping with the Examiner’s remarks and Applicant’s desire to quickly move the present application to allowance, the claims have been amended above to more clearly claim the present invention. In particular, claim 57 has been amended to recite a “retinal implant”, which Applicants believe will address the Examiner’s concerns. Particularly, Applicants note that neither Meyers nor Taniguchi recites a retinal implant as part of a “retinal stimulation system.” Likewise, claim 72 has been amended to recite a light projector that is “configured to control operation of a retinal implant.” Again, Meyers and Taniguchi fail to teach anything concerning a retinal implant and, consequently, a light projector configured to control operation of the retinal implant. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that both Meyers and Taniguchi fail to anticipate claims 57 and 72, which claims are therefore in suitable condition for allowance.

Regarding the obviousness rejections, for at least the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that both Meyers and Taniguchi (in light of Official Notice of subject matter cited by Examiner) fail to establish a prima facie case for obviousness to the extent that they both fail to teach, or even suggest, a retinal implant. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully

submit that claims 68, 69 and 72-77 are not rendered obvious by either Meyer or Taniguchi in light of the "well known" subject matter cited by Examiner and are therefore in suitable condition for allowance.

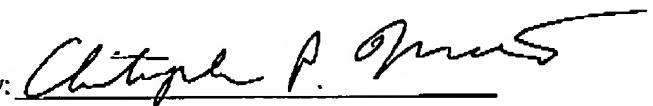
Furthermore, claims 58-71 and 73-77 are dependent upon, and therefore incorporate the limitations of, claims 57 and 72, respectfully. Because claims 57 and 72 claim subject matter not taught in the cited references, and to the extent that claims 58-71 and 73-77 claim additional subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 58-71 and 73-77 are not anticipated by either Meyer or Taniguchi and are not rendered obvious given either Meyer or Taniguchi in light of the "well known" subject matter cited by Examiner.

In light of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 57-77 are in suitable condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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